

Fremont Conservation Commission
03-16-09 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 16, 2009
Approved April 6, 2009

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien and Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2009 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

BROWNFIELDS PROPERTY

Theresa Walker of RPC

At 7:42 pm Mrs. Walker met with the Commission and reported that the Sandown Selectmen support a joint application by Sandown and Fremont to the I-93 CTAP grant program for \$20,000 to assist with land conservation planning in the two Towns. It can be used for a bank appraisal for the Hammond parcel and others parcels in Sandown and Fremont, to create maps and any other work that supports land conservation. The common interest is land identified in the watershed. The parcels do not need to be connected. She related that Ansel Sanborn of NHDOT has told her he supports the grant application, but notes the application will need to be reviewed by the I-93 CTAP grant committee. Mrs. Walker said that Sandown has a list of three or four properties that their Conservation Commission is working to conserve and suggested that Fremont create a list. The Members suggested several parcels in Fremont that could be conserved.

Mrs. Walker stated that Mr. Hammond has indicated an estimate of what his asking price would be and a payment amount that he would accept to cover his costs and close the business on the property in 30 days. Mrs. Walker said she has been talking with Fish & Wildlife about the North America Wetland Conservation Act (NOCA) grant in the amount of approximately \$75,000 to help purchase the Hammond property; the balance of the purchase money would be funded from other Grants or NH Stimulus money. She said there is a possibility of a \$25,000 NH Trails Bureau grant, a \$20,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant and there may be other grants available as well.

It was noted that the Hammond property is located in one of the two conservation areas that have been identified in Fremont in the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds Plan.

Fremont Conservation Commission

03-16-09 Minutes

Mrs. Walker asked if she could meet with the Open Space Committee to talk about land conservation opportunities and Mbr. O'Brien said that it may be possible for her to meet with them at their April 7, 2009 meeting.

ERLAC VERNAL POOL WORKSHOP

Mrs. Walker said that Betsy Sanders will talk to Gene Cordes for permission for ERLAC to hold the Vernal Pool Workshop at his property on Beede Hill Road again this year because the scheduled date has changed from the original date proposed. The new date is scheduled for the same date as bulky day.

FLUVIAL GEOMORPHIAL STUDY

Mrs. Walker said that Steve Couture of NH DES is trying to raise money through FEMA to complete a study of the Fluvial Geomorphology of the Exeter River in the Towns of Brentwood and Fremont.

NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

Mrs. Walker said that Fremont is on the list for a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan by RPC. There was a conversation relative to the plan.

At 8:35 pm the Members thanked Mrs. Walker and she left the meeting.

PRIME WETLANDS

Chrm. Karcz reported that in response to recent inquiries from the Land Use Office, Frank Richardson of NH DES reported that he has finished his review of the documentation and information submitted to the NH DES by West Environmental, Inc. requesting the designation of 26 additional prime wetlands to the Town of Fremont Prime Wetlands inventory and he anticipates having a letter of acceptance of these designations issued during the week of March 16, 2009.

Mrs. Bolduc said she has asked Mr. Richardson if the date of the letter of acceptance is also the date the wetlands are considered Prime, but she has not yet received his answer. She also reported that she spoke with Mark West about the aerial photos and he said that he will submit them as soon as NH DES has issued their approval.

OAK RIDGE

Mbr. deBeer said that she is finishing the mapping of the Oak Ridge Town Forest area and is almost ready to take it to the Selectmen for their approval and permission for it to be added to the Conservation Commission page of the Town website.

GLEN OAKES

Mbr. deBeer said that she has started working on the map for the Glen Oakes trails, but has stopped for more information. Names suggested for the trails were Forest Loop for the main loop trail, Porcupine Den Trail, Woodland Trail, Trail to Nowhere, Homestead Trail and Island Trail. Mrs. Bolduc will contact Chief Janvrin to make sure these names are not so similar to existing street names that they would interfere with emergency response.

Fremont Conservation Commission

03-16-09 Minutes

Karcz said the he can put things together for signs to put up in the summer.

EARTH DAY

Mbr. O'Brien said that she would like to see something done for Earth Day. It was agreed that since it Earth Day is only about a month away (April 22) it is too late for this year. The Members agreed that it would be nice to plan something for another year.

NATURAL RESOURCE PUBLICATION

Mbr. deBeer reported that she submitted an application form to the Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership (PREP) (formerly NHEP), through the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP), for funding and assistance in creating a natural resources publication. The grant has been awarded and Dave Kellam, Project Coordinator for *PREP is meeting with the Conservation Commission on April 6, 2009 to talk about the process.*

Mbr. deBeer asked if anyone has ideas for topics for the publication. Suggestions included 1) Spruce Swamp including a map and information about the swamp; 2) the regional impact of land use along the Exeter River; 3) introductory to include the roll of the Conservation Commission and the projects completed including the designation of 26 prime wetlands.

There was a conversation relative to whether this project could be part of the regular Conservation Commission meetings. This will be discussed at the next meeting when Mr. Kellam is present.

ERLAC

The Commission discussed the invoice received from RPC for the annual ERLAC dues in the amount of \$150.00 and Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the invoice be paid from the ERLAC dues line in the current budget.

The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

NH DES

Chrm. Karcz reported that the NH DES has requested the following to be read into the minutes:

Diesel Emission Reduction Act a Part of the Stimulus Package:

Through the federal stimulus bill the DES Air Resources Division is receiving an estimated \$1.73 million for projects and initiatives to reduce on- and off-road diesel engine emissions in the state. DES seeks project proposals by March 13, 2009 from operators of diesel equipment in the state. Eligible projects include retrofit of on-road and non-road diesel equipment with idling reduction and particulate control retrofit equipment, re-powering or upgrading existing diesel engines to more stringent emission standards, use of cleaner fuels, or replacement of existing diesel equipment with equipment meeting more stringent emission standards. For information, please contact Tom Fargo at (603) 271-1378 or go to <http://m1e.net/c?58775906-pEsr3yOuWBy.6%404058628-N0ZL3oX/LBiIE>

Be Alert to Carbon Monoxide Poisonings:

Carbon monoxide (CO) is one of the leading causes of unintentional poisoning deaths in the U.S. While winter is the most common season in which CO poisonings occur, exposure to fuel-burning appliances and vehicles in poorly ventilated areas can occur at any time. This winter's massive power outages highlighted the dangers of

Fremont Conservation Commission 03-16-09 Minutes

CO as a result of improperly used portable generators. As warmer weather approaches, emergency responders and health officials should be alert to these possible scenarios to help prevent CO poisonings: portable generators used to pump a flooded basement; gas or charcoal grill used inside an enclosed area; gas-powered tools such as lawn mowers or chain saws run in a home, garage or under a tarp; gas-fueled lanterns used inside a small, sealed area like a tent, trailer or boat cabin. For more info, please call the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 or go to www.nnepc.org.

Water Resources Plan Presented Statewide:

DES will hold a series of evening public meetings to discuss work on a state water resources plan. The meetings consist of a one-hour presentation regarding a recently completed report detailing the state's water resources challenges, followed by discussion. DES is conducting the meetings, with the assistance of various partner organizations and stakeholders, to inform and build public involvement in the development a state water resources plan by the legislature's Water Resources Committee. The full schedule can be viewed at <http://m1e.net/c?58775906-3DOzAkuArwOcM%404058629-PVCtefesjqcNQ>

Ground Water Rule Disinfection Option:

The new Ground Water Rule requires public groundwater systems that disinfect to undertake certain initial activities related to microbial water quality of their wells. System owners should have chosen a sampling option and notified DES by March 1. For rule information, contact Selina J. Makofsky at (603) 271-4109; to discuss 4-log treatment, its definition and how to meet it, contact Bob Mann at (603) 271- 2953. Information is also available at www.des.nh.gov under the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau pages.

Bike-Walk to Work Day now part of Green Commute Week, May 11-15:

The 53rd national Bike-Walk to Work Day will be celebrated in May. DES and DOT have again partnered with organizers to promote the annual event in New Hampshire. This year, alternative transportation, including ride sharing, van pools, bus and rail transit options, will be promoted along with bicycling and walking as means of commuting to any destination normally accessed by car. The goal is to minimize the number of single-occupant cars on the road. For a list of events and activities in New Hampshire for the week, please visit www.bwanh.org. For more information, contact Joan Clinton, NH Rideshare coordinator, at 271-4043 or JClinton@dot.state.nh.us.

There was a conversation relative to starting the Conservation Commission meetings earlier for the summer months. The Members present agreed that they could begin at 7:00 pm and to discuss it with the other Members at the next meeting.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received from the Conservation Law Foundation: A March 3, 2009 correspondence and a Great Bay Estuary public outreach information brochure.
2. Received from the Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership (PREP): Information and application for the 2009 "Coastal Watershed Land Protection Transaction Grants" for permanent land protection projects such as conservation easements, full fee acquisitions and donations. Mbr. O'Brien took the application to go over at home.
3. Received: National Association of Conservation Commission 2009 dues renewal invoice in the amount of \$250.00. Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues and membership line of the current budget. Motion seconded by Alt. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Fremont Conservation Commission
03-16-09 Minutes

4. Received: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 2009 membership renewal invoice in the amount of \$50.00. Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues and membership line of the current budget. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm.
Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary